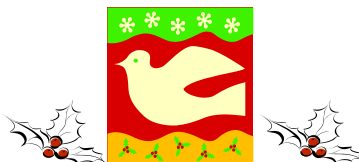


ADULT AND SENIOR CARE UPDATE



December 2008

This is the fourth and final issue of the *Adult and Senior Care Update* for 2008. Our goal is to provide you with timely and relevant information. We will continue to address the salient issues in the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) adult and senior care licensed facilities in 2009. In the meantime, we encourage your feedback. We hope you will share this issue of the *Update* with members of your organization as well as with others interested in adult and senior care issues. We extend our very best wishes to you for the 2008 holidays and 2009 New Year.

JO FREDERICK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Jo Frederick began her career in 1977 working in a variety of positions within CDSS and the State Legislature. Her contributions through the years have been in a number of key areas; training, emergency response, federal and state legislation, the refugee program, welfare reform and most recently in CCLD. When she first came to CCLD, she didn't know how long she would stay. After experiencing the "CCLD gets in your blood" feeling, Jo then wondered why she didn't come to CCLD earlier. Jo has brought outstanding leadership to the division and she will be greatly missed. We wish her the very best as she moves onto new exciting life opportunities. Thank you Jo and we all hope our paths will cross again in the future!



BE PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), in response to forecasts, urges Californians to be proactive and prepare for potential exposure to freezing temperatures and cold winds. The CCLD Website: <http://www.cclld.ca.gov/> has information on cold weather tips as well as a link to the OES webpage which offers more information on cold weather preparedness. This is also a good time to update Emergency/Disaster Plans to ensure that facility plans will adequately meet the needs of residents in care.



2008-09 INFLUENZA RECOMMENDATIONS

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued its *Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Influenza in California Long-Term Care Facilities*, revised for the 2008-09 influenza season, on November 3, 2008. While there are no major changes from the 2007-08 recommendations, CDPH works to improve the recommendations each year. Licensees are encouraged to review these comprehensive and easy-to-read guidelines closely to obtain the very latest influenza information available. For the full text of the CDPH recommendations, please go to www.cclid.ca.gov/PG523.htm. A shortened version of the CDPH influenza recommendations has been adapted for licensed adult and senior residential community care facilities, and is available at: www.cclid.ca.gov/res/pdf/FluAdapted.pdf.

The influenza vaccine supply is anticipated to be sufficient this year. To find an influenza shot clinic near you, please see the American Lung Association's California website at www.flucliniclocator.org/.

Licensees are also reminded to practice some simple guidelines of respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette: 1) provide tissues or masks so that coughing persons can cover their nose and mouth; 2) make hand-washing supplies available where sinks are located, and provide dispensers of alcohol-based rubs in other locations; 3) encourage coughing persons to sit *at least three feet* away from others, if tolerated; 4) keep plenty of wastebaskets or sealable plastic bags handy for disposal of soiled tissues; and 5) consider posting signs asking clients/residents to inform facility staff if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection. For more information on respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, see www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NOROVIRUS (NORWALK VIRUS)

Norovirus (a.k.a. "Norwalk") causes a gastrointestinal illness and often occurs in outbreak form. Norwalk is sometimes referred to as the "stomach flu," even though the terms "flu" or "influenza" should really be restricted to a respiratory infection.

Norwalk and Norwalk-like viruses are found worldwide. People can get a Norovirus infection directly from an ill individual who did not wash his hands adequately, or indirectly from food or water contaminated by the stool or vomit from an infected person, or from airborne particles produced by those vomiting. Anyone can get Norovirus infection, and can get it many times since immunity is not long-lasting.

What are the signs and symptoms of Norovirus infection?

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal cramps
- Low grade fever or none at all

A good clue that an outbreak is due to Norovirus is the prevalence of both vomiting and diarrhea. No specific treatment is available. Persons who are severely dehydrated might need fluid and electrolyte therapy.

Wash hands with soap and warm water after toilet visits and before preparing or eating food. People with symptoms of Norwalk-like illness should not prepare food or provide patient care. Cook all shellfish thoroughly before eating. Wash raw vegetables before eating. Custodial institutions need to assure a high level of personal hygiene to avoid person-to-person spread. Caretakers need to increase precautions to avoid transmission, particularly by washing hands frequently and especially before and after patient care. If an outbreak is suspected, licensees are encouraged to contact local county health officials. For more information on the Norwalk virus or for a fact sheet, please visit the CDPH website at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Norovirus.aspx>.

CHAPTERED LEGISLATION FOR 2008

A summary and implementation plan for each bill chaptered in 2008 that affects Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly and Adult Care Facilities will soon be available on the CCLD website. Unless otherwise noted in the Implementation Plans, these bills become effective on January 1, 2009. Licensees are encouraged to review these plans to ensure compliance with these new laws. If you have any questions, contact your local licensing regional office. The implementation plans will be online at: <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/PG830.htm>.

NEW SSI/SSP AND NON-MEDICAL OUT-OF-HOME PAYMENT STANDARDS

New Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) rates become effective January 1, 2009. The new rates reflect a 5.8 percent federal cost-of-living increase to the SSI portion of the benefit. There is no cost-of-living increase to the SSP portion of the benefit due to Assembly Bill 1279 (Chapter 759, Statutes of 2008) which suspended the SSP cost-of-living adjustment for 2009.

A chart showing the new estimated SSI/SSP payment standards is attached, along with a second chart showing the new non-medical out-of-home care payment standards. This information can be accessed through the CCLD website at: <http://www.cclld.ca.gov/res/pdf/NMOHC2009.pdf>. If you have questions regarding these new rates, please contact Rick Easley of the Adult Programs Operations Bureau at (916) 229-0345.

CCLD STAFFING CHANGES

GARY LEVENSON-PALMER APPOINTED AS CHIEF OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND POLICY BRANCH

We are pleased to announce that Gary Levenson-Palmer has been appointed Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch (TAPB) with CCLD. As TAPB's Branch Chief, he

will oversee Adult Care, Senior Care, and Children's Residential Care Policy units as well as the Administrator Certification Section and Central Training Section.

Gary has been with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) since 1974 and with CCLD since 1978. In his thirty-plus years with CDSS, Gary has held numerous positions both in headquarters and in the field. Most recently, Gary served as the Chief of the Division Administrative Support Bureau. Prior to this position, he was the Regional Manager for the Northern Region Children's Residential Program.

Gary has worked in virtually every program in CCLD. This has provided him with a wealth of experience that will prove tremendously valuable as he takes the helm at TAPB. Welcome, Gary!

ROBERT PATE, ACTING BRANCH CHIEF OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND POLICY BRANCH TO RETIRE

In the September 2008 *Update*, we announced that Robert Pate was appointed as Acting Branch Chief of TAPB. After devoting thirty years to CDSS, Robert has announced he will be retiring at the end of 2008.

During his tenure, Robert has held positions as a Licensing Program Analyst, Licensing Program Supervisor, and District Manager, all in the Los Angeles region. He subsequently transferred to Sacramento where he was the Statewide Administrator of the Children's Residential Program. When Barbara Rooney left CCLD last February, Robert graciously agreed to postpone his retirement plans to fill in as TAPB's Branch Chief while a permanent successor was recruited and hired.

We thank Robert for going above and beyond for TAPB over the past several months. We also thank him for his many years of dedicated service to CDSS. In his retirement we wish him health, happiness, and prosperity. Best of luck, Robert!

DONNA TEUTSCHER AND CAROL MARCROFT APPOINTED AS SENIOR CARE PROGRAM REGIONAL MANAGERS

Donna assumed management of the Northern California Region effective October 1, 2008. Donna has been the Licensing Program Manager (LPM) for the Oakland Adult Care Licensing Office for over six years, with several years prior as a Licensing Program Analyst (LPA).

Carol began management of the Central California Region effective October 6, 2008. Carol has been the LPM for the San Jose Adult Care Licensing Office for almost nine years, with eight years previously as an LPA.

Donna and Carol have over 30 years of combined CDSS and CCLD experience. Both have outstanding qualifications for the Regional Manager positions. They have demonstrated a commitment to the highest standards for Community Care Licensing and the individuals we serve.

SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLISTS

In June 2008, CCLD sent a letter to all licensees that addressed the responsibilities of a licensed care provider. The letter stressed the importance of staying in compliance with licensing requirements.

As part of our continued efforts to work with licensees on compliance issues, CCLD has developed a checklist of the most serious violations that have come to our attention. These violations are those that present an immediate or substantial threat to the physical health, mental health, or safety of those in licensed care.

The checklist was enclosed with the letter along with CCLD's recommendation that licensees routinely use it when conducting facility inspections. The checklist is posted on the CCLD website and may be accessed at www.cclld.ca.gov/PG832.htm.

2009 CHANGES IN DISTRIBUTION OF ADULT AND SENIOR CARE UPDATE

With increasing costs and decreasing resources, the next quarterly update, (March 2009), will be distributed electronically only. No hard copies will be mailed. For those persons who currently receive the Update in hard copy form and want to continue to receive the Update electronically, contact CCLD staff Marisa Sanchez (formerly Lopez) at Marisa.Lopez@dss.ca.gov or at (916) 323-1372. Ms. Sanchez will add your name to the e-distribution list. Current and former Updates are available on the CCLD website at: <http://www.cclld.ca.gov/PG432.htm> and can be accessed at local libraries.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about this *Update* or suggestions for future topics, please contact Gary Levenson-Palmer, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch, at (916) 324-4312. Please visit our website at www.cclld.ca.gov for copies of *Updates*, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Jo Frederick

JO FREDERICK
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Original signed by Ben Partington

BEN PARTINGTON
Program Administrator
Adult & Senior Care Programs

Enclosures